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SEE BRITAIN FIRST

THE
HOLIDAY HANDBOOK
TO
BEXHILL-ON-SEA
AND
DISTRICT

WITH MAPS AND ILLUSTRATIONS

ACCOMMODATION REGISTER

SIXTH EDITION.

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Members of the
TOPOGRAPHICAL ASSOCIATION OF GREAT BRITAIN
for the promotion of a better appreciation of the British
Coast and Countryside

BEXHILL=ON=SEA

HISTORICAL NOTE.

THE earliest historical mention of Bexhill (by which is meant the district now known as the "Old Town" or "Village") is in 772, when a Charter of King Offa of Mercia granted a piece of land for the purpose of enlarging the Parish Church. In "Domesday Book" the place is mentioned as Bexelei, and later versions of the name have been Bixle, and Bexle, from which by easy transition has come the name Bexhill. The modern development of the town dates from 1881, at which time the population of the district was only 2,000. In 1891 it had reached over 5,000 and in 1911 was placed at 15,300. The population today is 21,229. The growth of this seaside resort has therefore been most rapid, and this is almost entirely due to the energetic exploitation of the district by the late Lord de La Warr.

MODERN BEXHILL.

Position. On the South-eastern coast of Sussex, between Beachy Head and Dungeness. Sixty-three miles S.E. of London, four miles west of Hastings, and twelve miles E.N.E. of Eastbourne.

Area. 8,015 acres.

Population. 21,229.

Local Government. A Municipal Borough governed by a Mayor, six Aldermen and 18 Councillors. Charter dates from 1902.

Railway Services. Connected with London by a main line of the Southern Railway via Tunbridge Wells and Tonbridge, steam trains, (Bexhill terminus—West Station; London termini—Charing Cross, London Bridge and Cannon Street). Also connected with London by a line via Lewes, Haywards Heath and Croydon, electric trains (Bexhill station—Central) London termini—Victoria and London Bridge). Electric line eastward to Hastings connecting with steam line to Rye, Ashford and Kent. Electric line westward to Eastbourne, Brighton, Worthing, etc. In addition to the West and Central stations, there are stations at Sidley and Cooden and a halt at Collington.

Motor and Trolley Bus Services. Controlled by Maidstone and District Motor Services, Ltd.

TROLLEY BUSES.

Trolley Service 5.—Cooden, Bexhill, St. Leonards, Hastings, Ore and St. Helens, via Metropole Hotel or Western Road.

do. 7.—As above, but to Ore only.

MOTOR BUSES.

Service 15.—Hastings, Bexhill and Eastbourne, via Hailsham.

Service 34.—Circular Route—Hastings, Bexhill, Ninfield, Catsfield, Battle and Hastings.

Service 48.—Bexhill Golf House and Hooe, via Bexhill Cemetery.

Service 51.—Ninfield, Bexhill Cemetery, Sidley, Bexhill, Hastings and Fairlight Glen.

Service 35.—Cooden, Little Common, Bexhill, Hastings, Ore (King's Head).

Service 99.—Hastings, Bexhill, Pevensey and Eastbourne.

Service 104.—Bexhill (Town Hall Square) and Barnhorn Lane.

COUNTRY SERVICES.

Regular omnibus services at frequent intervals are operated from Hastings to all parts of Kent and Sussex by the MAIDSTONE AND DISTRICT MOTOR SERVICES LTD., EAST KENT ROAD CAR CO. LTD., SOUTHDOWN MOTOR SERVICES LTD. and DENGATE BROS. The Eastbourne services pass through Bexhill and other services may be joined by using the cars from Bexhill to Hastings. Long distance through routes are operated to London (M. and D.), etc., to Margate, Herne Bay (E.K. and S.), and to Brighton, Portsmouth and Bournemouth (E.K. and S.).

See local timetables for complete lists of routes and times.

Steamer Services. From about May to October, the saloon steamers of Messrs. P. and A. Campbell Ltd. operate from Hastings Pier to Boulogne, Calais and other French ports and along the south coast eastward to Folkestone, Dover, Ramsgate and Margate, and westward to Eastbourne, Brighton, Worthing, the Isle of Wight, etc. Weekly sailing bills are issued at the Pier.

Foreshore. Extensive beach of light shingle with stretches of sand exposed at low tide.

Localities. BEXHILL proper, in the present day meaning of the term, is that part of the town around the two railway stations. The OLD TOWN is at the north end of Sea Road. COODEN is the coast district a little under two miles west of the De la Warr Pavilion. LITTLE COMMON is about a mile inland from Cooden. SIDLEY is the northern part of the town about one and a half miles from the front and possesses a railway station on the Crowhurst and London line. COLLINGTON is between Bexhill and Cooden.

Amusements and Entertainments.

De La Warr Pavilion is now the centre of the entertainments of Bexhill and this fine building with its amenities is more fully referred to on page 5.

Drives. Motor chars-à-banc, brakes, etc., run daily to places of interest. The "Maidstone" Company's Enquiry Offices are on The Marina and opposite the Eastern Station.

Cinemas. Bexhill possesses excellent electric theatres, in the Playhouse, Western Road; St. George's Cinema, Station Road, and the Gaiety in London Road.

For details of programmes, times, prices, etc., of above-mentioned amusements, see local announcements from time to time.

Places of Worship.

The following is a list of the Churches and Chapels in the Borough :—

CHURCH OF ENGLAND.

S. Peter's Parish Church, Old Town,
All Saints', Sidley.
S. Augustine's, Cooden Drive.
S. Barnabas, Lower Sea Road.
S. Andrew's Wickham Avenue.
S. Stephen's, Woodgate Park.
S. Mark's, Little Common.
S. Michael and All Angels, Glassenbury Drive.

NONCONFORMIST., etc.

Presbyterian, S. George's, Cantelupe Road.
Congregational, London Road.
Methodist : Sackville Road and Belle Hill ;
Little Common.
Baptist, Buckhurst Road.
Methodist, Christ Church.
S. Paul's Evangelical, Wickham Avenue.
Roman Catholic, S. Mary Magdalen, Sea Rd.
Christian Science, Cantelupe Road.
Salvation Army, Station Road.
Church Army, Station Road.
Plymouth Brethren, London Road.

Sports.

Angling. The sport is principally enjoyed from boats. The subscription of the Bexhill Sea Angling Club (Headquarters in the Arcade) is 2s. 6d. The possibilities include bass, codling, plaice, dabs, whiting, soles, etc. Good sport can also be obtained with sand lines. Excellent fresh-water fishing may be had in the River Rother, at Bodiam, etc., which is well stocked with chub, perch, pike, carp, etc. At Pevensey Haven (see page 16, carp up to 12 lb. and pike up to 16 lb. are fairly common, and there are also some fine bream and roach.

Bathing is available either from tents or machines. The shore is shingly at first, but sandy lower down. Dangerous rocks are few and far between, and there are no strong currents. There is a large open-air Swimming Bath in the Egerton Park.

Boating. Rowing, Sailing and Motor Boats are on hire at Bexhill and also at Cooden Beach.

Bowls. Greens available for this popular pastime are in the Polegrove and Egerton Park. The Bexhill Bowling Club and the Spartan Club welcome visitors. A further club green exists at Sidley. Winter bowls may be enjoyed in the Park Pavilion, Egerton Park, where two rinks have been made.

Badminton. Club Courts at the Drill Hall, Bexhill Down.

Cricket. There are several local cricket clubs, and the Downs and Polegrove afford excellent practice pitches.

Croquet. The lawns of the Cantelupe Croquet Club are in the Cantelupe Gardens. Visitors are welcomed, the fees being £1 10s. for one month, 12/6 for half month, 3s. for a day, 2s. for a half-day. There are croquet lawns at Cooden in connection with the County Club.

Football. Pitches in the Polegrove.

Golf. The "Royal and ancient game" is represented by three clubs, viz., The Bexhill Golf Club, The Cooden Beach Golf Club and The Highwoods Golf Club. The course of the former is at Galley Hill, eastward of the town, and consists of 18 holes. (Visitors' Fees: 3s. 6d. per day. Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays, 5s. per day). The course of the Cooden Club is now one of the most famous in the country, and is situated at Cooden, adjoining the halt. Highwoods Club Course is in Turkey Road, north of Broadoak. Other links within reach are St. Leonards, Hastings and Eastbourne.

Hockey. Bexhill Hockey Club meets in the Polegrove.

Hunting is extensively enjoyed in the district, and the East Sussex Foxhounds (kennels, Catsfield), the Romney Marsh Harriers and Rother Valley Harriers meet frequently during the season. The Crowhurst Otter Hounds meet about three days a week in the summer.

Lawn Tennis. Tennis courts exist in the Egerton Park and Polegrove. The Bexhill Lawn Tennis Club and Sutherland Club have grounds in Dorset Road.

Around the Town.

The Arcade. This attractive row of shops (mostly tea rooms) is on the shoreward side of the block of buildings which adjoins the Promenade, between Devonshire Road and Sea Road. Here is the Reference Library. On the seaward side is a line of substantially built bungalows, locally known as "Sun Parade."

Belle Hill is a very picturesque rustic thoroughfare leading from the Old Village to The Down. Here will be noticed a number of quaint wooden houses dating from the period of the Napoleonic scares, when a German Legion was quartered at this part.

Cantelupe Gardens. These grounds of the Cantelupe Croquet Club are entered from Knole Road, at the back of the De La Warre Parade.

Chantry Lane. This lane, leading from the High Street (Old Village) to Sidley, is considered the most picturesque in the district, and forms an admirable short walk. The banks of the roadway, which is in "cutting" are fern and moss covered, and overhead the great trees form a verdant arch.

Clock Tower. Erected to commemorate the coronation of King Edward VII. in 1902, this dainty structure stands on the West Parade close to Egerton Park. Facing the Clock Tower a "bastion" projects

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from the parade, and on this is a large shelter, formerly used as a bandstand.

Collington Woods. Twelve acres of natural woodland have been acquired by the Corporation for the public enjoyment at Collington and this charming retreat, close to the sea and town, is an acquisition of the highest value.

Colonnade. Situated on the Central Parade, at once ornamental and useful. On the shore side of the Parade, the cliff has been cut away so as to allow of the erection of a semi-circular gallery covered by a roof. The south side of the Parade has been widened so as to complete the arc, and in the centre of the circle thus made is the bandstand. In rough weather the northern half of the arena is protected by glass windscreens. The Colonnade, opened in 1911 and costing about £4,000, is the property of the Corporation.

De La Warr Parade extends from the War Memorial eastward to Galley Hill. Here are several shelters and attractive gardens, etc.

De La Warr Pavilion. This handsome modern structure situated between the Marina and the Central Parade, is Bexhill's proudest possession. Ultra modern in style, it was designed by Dr. Erich Mendelsohn and Mr. Serge Chermayeff, F.R.I.B.A. Opened in December, 1935, the cost to the Corporation was £80,000, the site costing a further £20,000. The building is notable for its welded steel framework. From the **Entrance Hall**, there is on the west side a fine **Theatre-Concert Hall** with accommodation for 1,200 persons. On the east side is a long two-floored building, the lower of which houses the **Cafe-restaurant**, whilst that above is the **Reading Room and Library**. The eastern section of the building has on its southern front a series of sliding windows and balconies affording excellent channel views, an open **Sun Parlour** forming the end of the upper terrace. The flat roof affords further sun bathing facilities. There is also a small **Lecture Hall** and the usual offices, cloak rooms, etc. The furnishings and fittings of the Pavilion are in accord with its modern design and the De La Warr Pavilion constitutes not only a wonderful addition to the amenities of Bexhill but also a new departure in entertainment halls for the whole country.

Entertainment is of a varied kind and includes the **Bexhill Municipal Orchestra** under the direction of Julian Clifford, **Instrumental, Ballad and Operatic Concerts** with world-famous artistes, **Symphony Concerts**, musical and dramatic **Theatrical Performances**, and popular entertainments. Tea and supper **Dances** are held in the Restaurant and the Theatre can be converted into a Ballroom.

Devonshire Road is the principal thoroughfare of Bexhill. It extends from the Marina (eastward of the Colonnade) to Station Square, and is traversed by the Trolley 'Buses.

The Downs. Reached from the front by way of Sackville Road, Buckhurst Road and London Road, is the pleasant common known as The Down. This gorse-covered tract is owned by the Corporation, who have laid out a portion of it for games, but have left the greater part in its natural state.

Egerton Park is situated at the western end of the town. It covers about 13 acres and within this comparatively small area are provided quite a number of attractions. At one end is the Park Pavilion utilised for entertainments and indoor bowls. A winding stream has been converted into quite an attractive lake. A small model yacht pond has been provided for youthful navigators, and for their elders are the Tennis, Croquet and Bowls Lawns. On the south side are the open-air Swimming Baths, and adjoining is the Museum, which contains an interesting number of exhibits.

Institute and Reading Room. This useful building is in the Station Road on the north side of the Coast railway. Opened in 1888 to commemorate Queen Victoria's first Jubilee, it contains a Reading Room, Lending Library, Billiard Room, etc.

Malet Memorial Church Hall. Erected in 1913 by Lady Ermyntrude Malet, to the memory of her husband, Sir E. B. Malet, P.C., C.C.B., G.C.M.G., the distinguished diplomat, this Tudor style building is at the foot of Belle Hill, at the top of Station Road. On the upper floor is a Chapel, where Divine Service is held on Sundays.

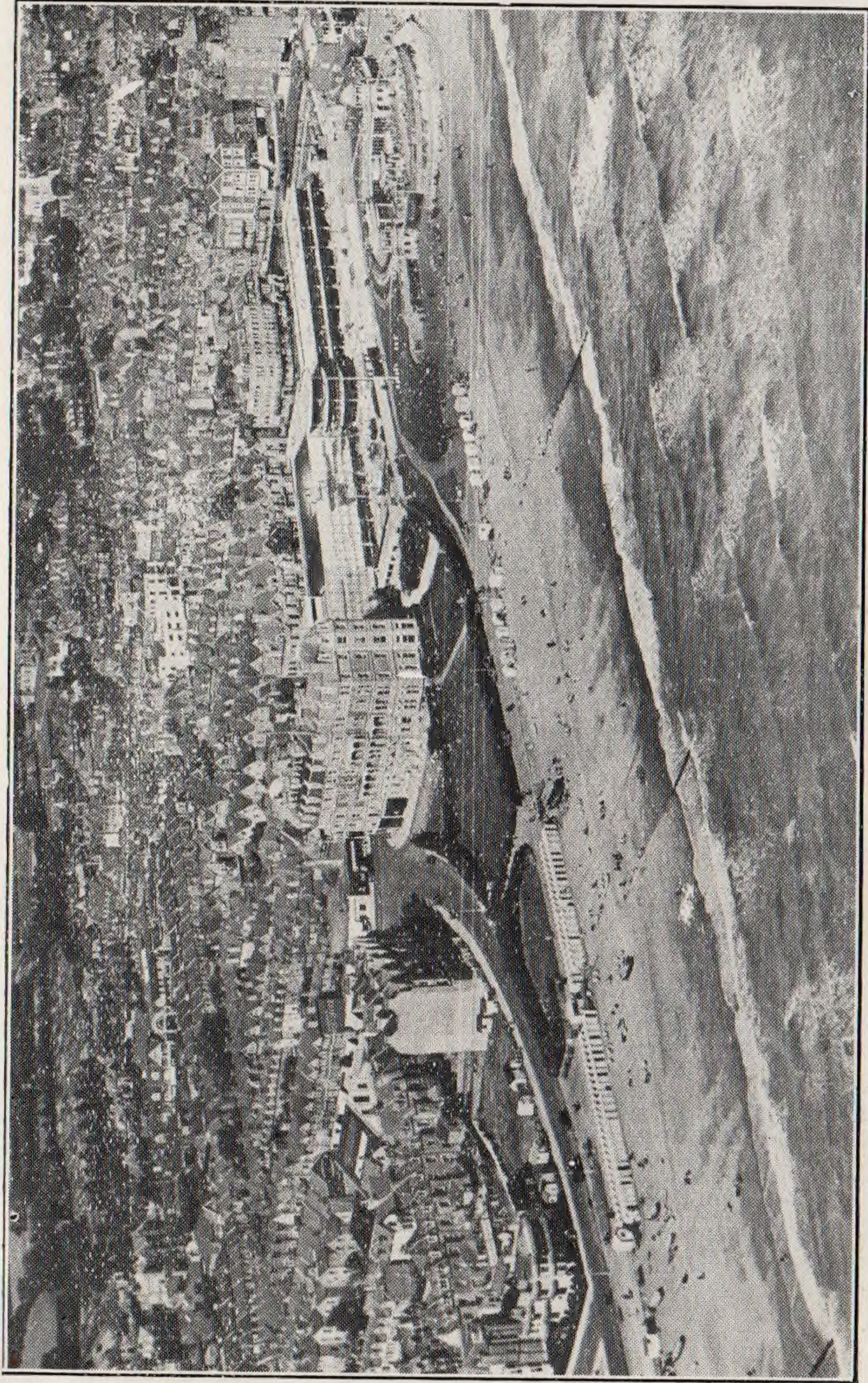
Manor House in the Old Village, is one of the links with Bexhill's past. It is a picturesque structure of a rambling design and was at one time the residence of the Bishops of Chichester. It was rebuilt by S. Richard de la Wych, Bishop of Chichester, who resided here in the 13th century. In 1148 it was embattled by Bishop Moleyns, who also enclosed it with a wall and added some 2,000 acres to its grounds. No portion of the wall remains. At the Reformation the Manor of Bexhill was confiscated by Queen Elizabeth to Lord Buckhurst, to whose descendant (Lord de la Warr and Buckhurst) it belongs.

The Marina. The Marina, or Central Parade, connects the De la Warr Parade with the West Parade and front, the most important part of the town. Here are the Arcade, Sun Parade and the Colonnade (which see). A fine War Memorial has been erected.

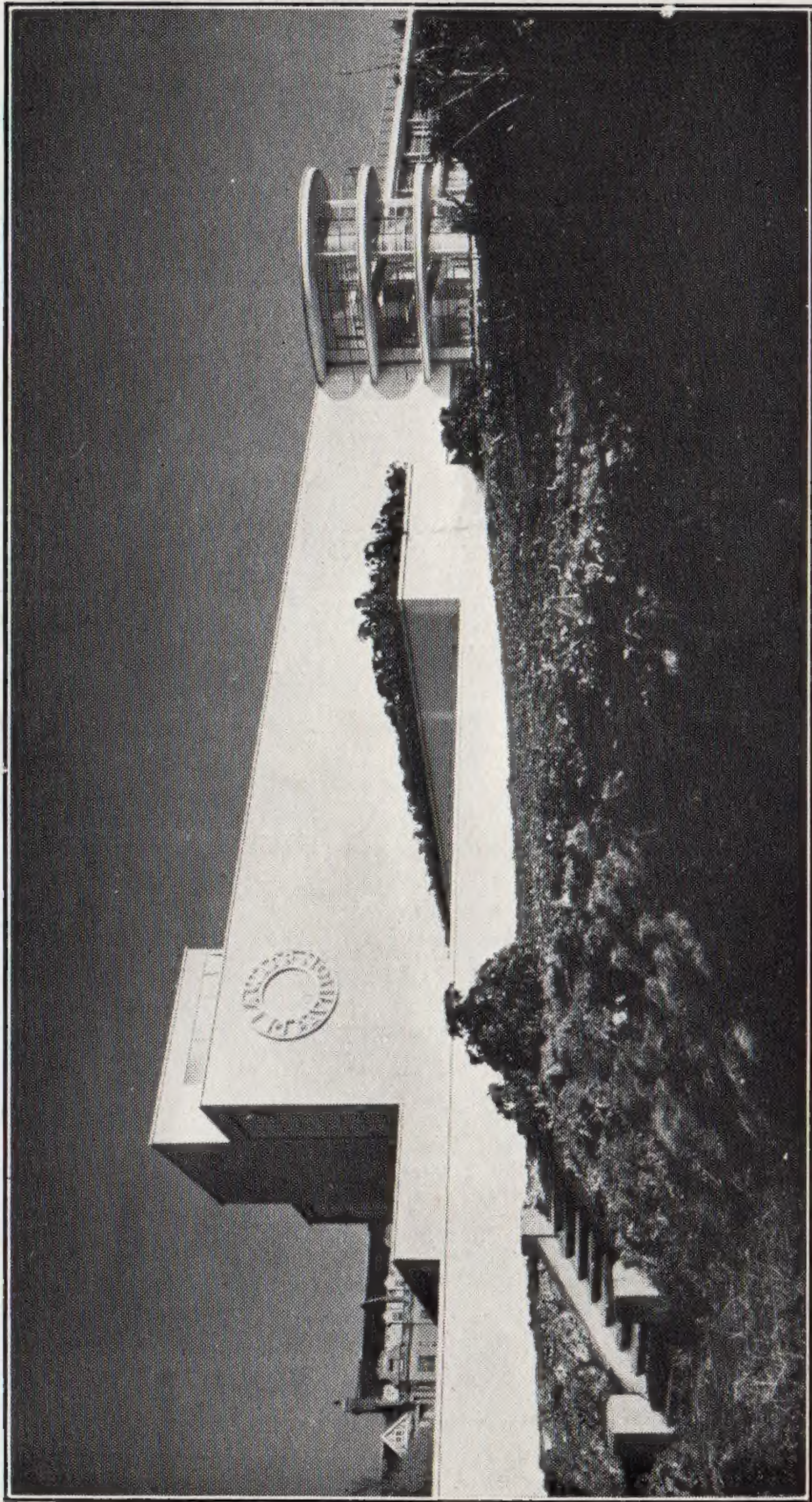
Metropolitan Convalescent Home. This large home, founded in 1880, was probably the first impetus to the growth of modern Bexhill. Situated on high ground, close to the Old Village, it has fine aspects over sea and land. It is now occupied only by women, a new home for men patients being erected at Cooden Down.

Museum. See Egerton Park.

Nazareth House on the Hastings Road, about one mile from Bexhill, was erected in 1894 as a branch of Nazareth House, Hammersmith,



View of Bexhill from the Air.



View of De La Warr Pavilion.



View of West Parade, Bexhill.



View of Old Parish Church.



View of Colonnade.

It is entirely supported by voluntary contributions. Here are resident 16 nuns who have under their care 60 aged and infirm men and women of all creeds, and 116 children, whom they feed, clothe and educate. The Home may be visited daily between 2 and 5 p.m.

Old Village, approached by Sea Road northward, is a quaint mixture of ancient and modern. This is Bexhill proper and should on no account go unvisited. It is about two-thirds of a mile from the sea. Here are S. Peter's Parish Church (below), the Manor House (page 6), the old Bell Hotel and a commemorative Clock, 1887. See also Chantry Lane (page 4) and Belle Hill (page 4).

Parks, etc. See Cantelupe Gardens, Egerton Park, and The Down.

Polegrove, The. West of Egerton Park is the large Recreation Ground known as the Polegrove, where provision is made for every kind of outdoor sport. This 12 acre lung is invaluable to the town.

Town Hall. At the junction of London Road with Buckhurst Road is the Town Hall, a handsome building in red brick. Behind it is the Fire Station. In front of the Town Hall are triangular enclosed Gardens, containing a fountain erected to the memory of Colonel Henry Lane, J.P., one of the town's earliest civic fathers.

West Parade, extending from the Central Parade westward, is 800 yards long and 45 feet wide. It is skirted by ornamental gardens. Here are the Clock Tower (page 4), shelters, and some old cannon. At the extremity, is a flagstaff formed from the mast of the ill-fated S.S. *Robert Ingram*, which was run down in 1902 off Beachy Head, by a German Lloyd steamer. During the winter of 1911-12 the heavy storms practically ruined the West Parade, which has been entirely rebuilt on strong and efficient lines. The cliffs beyond the parade form a pleasant walk to Cooden, and on the shore may be seen at low water the remains of a submarine forest, swallowed up by the sea centuries ago. The tree stumps are about four to ten feet in height and are of oak and birch trees mostly.

Interesting Churches.

S. PETER'S (PARISH) CHURCH.

This is the only ancient Church in Bexhill. It was erected in 1070, but has been altered and enlarged so many times that little of the original building has survived. Amongst other ancient features are four excellent Norman arcade arches. In the basement of the south side of the tower is a carved stone (discovered in 1878), said to be a Saxon grave slab of the eighth century. From the style of the carving it is almost certain that this came from the North, the type being fairly common in Scotland, but it also bears some Hibernian influence. Other items of interest are a list of Rectors since 1401 and a sundial in the Churchyard.

The remaining Churches in Bexhill are all modern, but the following contain features which will appeal to those who take an interest in ecclesiastical architecture, etc.:—S. Mary Magdalene, R.C. (1907), S. Barnabas' (1891), S. Stephen's, Woodgate Park.

PLACES OF INTEREST AROUND BEXHILL.

*Special Handbooks in this series are issued for places marked with an asterisk.

Ashburnham Park. Ashburnham House, the seat of the Earl of Ashburnham, whose family "of stupendous antiquity" was settled here before the conquest, is not open to the public, but the footpath through the Park is available for use. The house is modern, but the Park is magnificent, and repays a visit by the excellent views afforded. The Church is of interest, and contains some relics. Ashburnham was the scene of the last of the Sussex Iron Foundries, which survived here until 1825.

* **Battle Abbey.** Reached by rail or motor, Battle is $6\frac{3}{4}$ miles from Bexhill. The town of Battle has no history prior to the Conquest, the original settlement here having been made around the great Abbey. At the time of the Battle of Hastings (1066), from which the place takes its name, the district was apparently a wild moorland, as the first name "Senlac" is obviously derived from the Norman "Sanglac," signifying a lake of blood. The Abbey is open to visitors on Weekdays, admission 6d. It is unnecessary to detail here the events of 1066, which resulted from the landing of William the Conqueror and the battle fought here. The Abbey was commenced by the Conqueror in fulfilment of a vow, but was not finished until the reign of William Rufus in 1094. For five centuries the Abbey flourished, being the scene of many regal displays, but in common with so many others it was suppressed by Henry VIII. Since then it has been in the hands of various noble families as a residential domain.

The principal items of interest are the handsome Gateway (fourteenth century), the Almonry to the right of the gate, the ruined wing to the left (long in use as a Town Hall), the precinct wall along the Hastings road. Some fragments of the great Abbey Church remain, notably parts of the south aisle and the foundation of the apse, unique in form. An important thirteenth century building, pointed out as the Refectory, but more probably used as a dormitory, stands with three vaulted undercrofts, one of which was probably the monks' parlour. The modern house was formed out of the remains of the Abbot's House, and on the east exterior are some remains of the fifteenth century cloister arcades.

Visitors should obtain the "Guide to Battle Abbey" in this series, price 4d.

Bodiam. A small village in Sussex on the River Rother, with a railway station on the Kent and East Sussex Railway, possesses a famous relic of the past in Bodiam Castle. The castle is situated a few minutes' walk from the station, across the Rother (here navigable for boats), and is open daily from 9 to dusk, except on Sundays and Good Fridays. Tickets of admission, price 1s., may be obtained at the Castle Cottage.

The structure, in a good state of preservation, was erected in 1377 by Sir Edward Dalyngruge, and was never called upon to justify its warlike fortification. The founder apparently secured the essential riches to erect the castle out of his share of loot as a member of a band of organised British bandits ravaging France in the Hundred Years' War. The building covers an area of 50 by 46 yards, the moat, which remains to this day, being from 30 to 60 feet wide. The outer walls are $6\frac{1}{3}$ feet thick and 40 feet high, the plan of the building being rectangular

with a circular tower at each corner and a square tower between, except on the north side, where a double tower and gateway form the main entrance overlooking the causeway across the moat. Notice the portcullis and arms over the gate. Within may be traced the various apartments, passages, etc. The castle was apparently only used for a century, having been occupied by the Yorkists and later by the Roundheads without resistance. An excellent view is obtainable from the South Tower, 70 feet high. Bodiam is as fine a specimen of the fortress-mansion as exists in England, and repays inspection. It was purchased and restored by the late Lord Curzon, and is now the property of the National Trust.

Bodiam Church, dedicated to St. Giles, is some distance from the castle, very close to the Kent boundary.

Broad oak. A pretty leafy hamlet just beyond The Down, Bexhill, affording a pleasant short walk from Bexhill.

Catsfield. A pleasant village about five miles north of Bexhill, on the road to Battle. In the Churchyard here is a gigantic pollard oak over 40 feet round. The Early English Church contains several items of general interest.

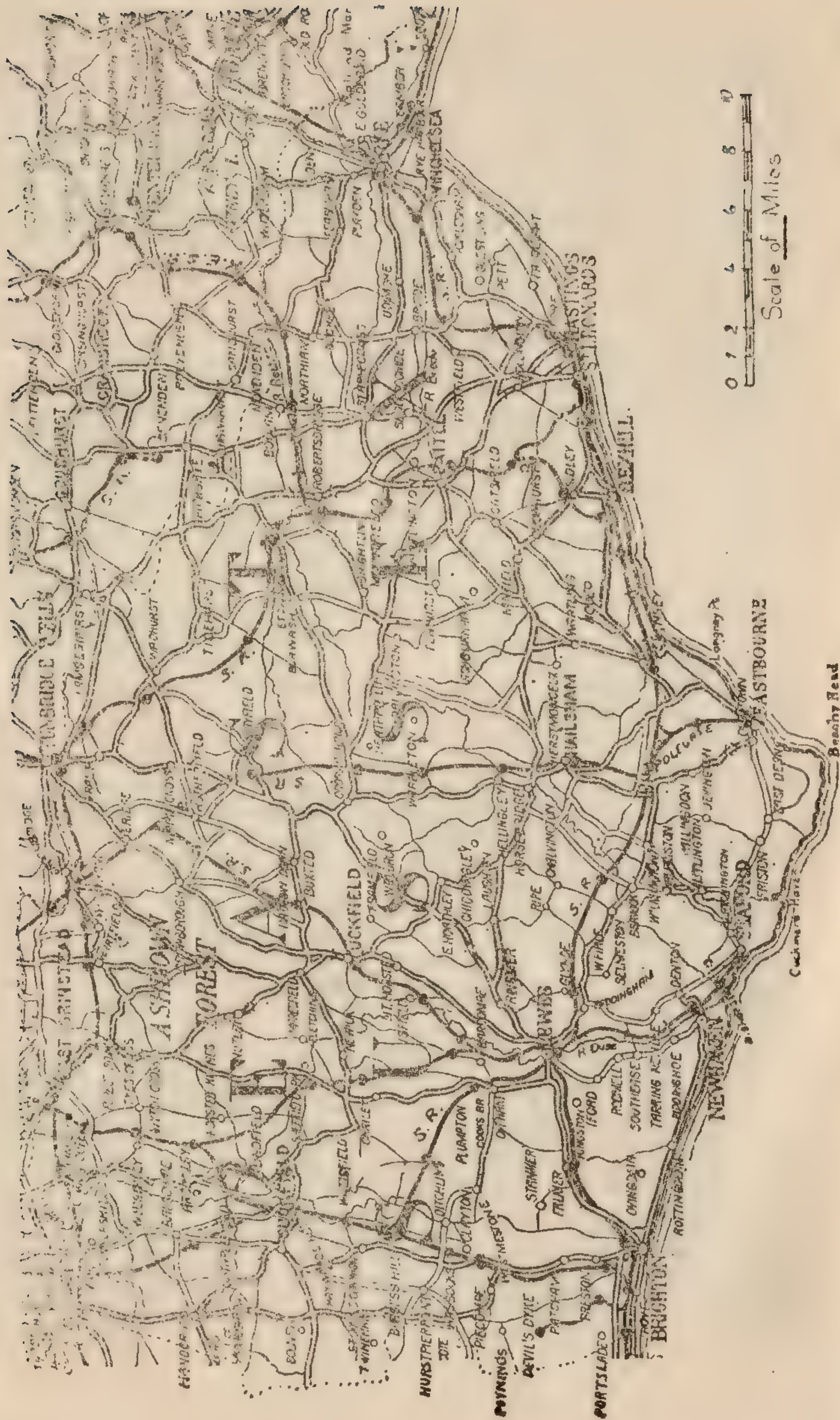
Cooden. This growing little resort is $2\frac{1}{8}$ miles west of Bexhill, and is most abundantly catered for with regard to travelling facilities. There is a Station on the Southern Railway, a service of motor buses from Bexhill and Hastings, and the electric Trolley 'Bus route, which terminates on the beach here. The walk along the cliff from Bexhill is very pleasant. A number of large and attractive bungalows have been erected at Cooden and the shore is dotted with bathing huts and tents. A refreshment bungalow adjoins the "trolley" terminus. Boats may be hired here, and the village is an excellent starting point for inland and coast rambles.

The principal attraction of Cooden is, of course, the Golf Course (see page 4), which is on the north side of the railway and extends almost to Pevensey Sluice. **Cooden Down** is the name given to that portion of the district lying on rising ground halfway between the sea and Little Common.

Court Lodge is a fine old farmhouse in the Jacobean style half a mile south of the village of Hooe.

Crowhurst. This pretty village, situated about three miles from Bexhill, on the main line of the S.R., is reached by railway, or the walk is not difficult. The Church is of Early English style and of the fifteenth century. On the south side of the Church are the ruins of a small thirteenth century Manor House. In the Churchyard is the famous Crowhurst yew tree, the age of which is put at anything between 1,400 and 3,000 years; at the base it is 50ft. in circumference and 6ft. up it is 38ft. round. One other yew in the southern counties can compare with this in size, and it is extraordinary that it should be in the ground of a Church dedicated to the same Saint (St. George), in a village of the same name (Crowhurst, Surrey) and is of almost identical measurements.

* **Eastbourne.** A popular and important resort, is 11 miles by rail from Bexhill, is a County Borough, with a population of 58,000. With wide picturesque streets, beautiful parks and lawns, noble and attractive buildings, and nothing wanting in the way of amusements, the town will repay a visit. A trip to **Beachy Head** should be included.



Galley Hill is a slight eminence (69 feet) at the eastern end of De la Warr Parade, Bexhill. Excellent views of both Hastings and Bexhill are obtained from the Hill. It should be noted, however, that the cliff hereabouts is very friable and is at all times dangerous.

* **Hastings and St. Leonards** is the very large twin health and pleasure resort lying about four miles east of Bexhill, with which it is connected by motor and trolley 'bus and by the S.R. The principal items of historic and antiquarian interest are the Castle, St. Clement's Caves, All Saints' Church. In the neighbourhood are the famous Fairlight and Ecclesbourne Glens.

High Woods are about one mile north of Little Common, Bexhill.

Hollington. The famous "Church-in-the-Wood" at Hollington forms a delightful excursion. Trolley and motor 'buses run at frequent intervals from Bexhill to St. Leonards, where change to car for Hollington village. A few yards beyond the terminus, on the left a foot-path leads, in a mile, to the Church. Dedicated to St. Leonard, this edifice is entirely surrounded by woodlands, and in this romantic situation consists its interest to visitors. The building is very small and contains little of architectural interest. Its small size caused Charles Lamb to assert wittily that it was erected to the text of "two or three are assembled in My name." Another route to Hollington Wood for pedestrians is by way of Harley Shute Road (on the 'bus route). At the Smugglers' Oak, where two roads meet, turn to left and pass the grounds of "The Grove." This old mansion was first heard of in the reign of Henry VIII. At the top of Iron Latch Hill, named from a famous latch on the entrance gate of The Grove here, the roads or paths through the woods on the right lead to Hollington Church-in-the Wood.

Hooe. This little village is reached by motor 'bus from Bexhill and is a very scattered place. It was at one time the site of a priory of Benedictine monks, but of the priory nothing remains. The Parish Church contains an interesting painted window depicting King Edward III. and Queen Philippa. Here also is Court Lodge.

Little Common, near Bexhill. This popular short excursion may be enjoyed by a variety of routes. The most simple are by following the road south of the Down or by proceeding north from the Cooden trolley terminus. The village of Little Common may be considered as a suburb of Bexhill (with which it is connected by a motor omnibus service), and apart from its rural surroundings has little of interest to the tourist.

Ninfield lies about four miles from Bexhill at the junction of the Hailsham and Battle main roads. The old stocks and whipping post, which will be noticed just before entering the village, are of Jacobean design and are a specimen of Sussex ironwork.

The Church possesses some items of interest, including a sundial and a wooden belfry. Just beyond the village is Standard Hill, attaining an altitude of 280 feet. Tradition affirms that it was upon this hill that William set up his banner on the eve of the Battle of Hastings. Here is also a picturesque old farmhouse, called "God's Providence House," with its quaint inscription.

Norman's Bay. See page 16.

Pevensey Castle. This ancient ruin is easily reached by rail (station, Pevensey and Westham) or by bus. The Castle is open daily free, Sundays excepted, and teas and refreshments can be obtained at Castle Lodge.

The structure consists of a series of great walls of Roman construction, reaching up to 20 feet or 30 feet high, enclosing an area, now grass covered, of some 10 acres. Within these walls is yet another castle of Norman origin. The Roman walls are amongst the most perfect, if not the most perfect, in the United Kingdom.

The finding of ancient neolithic implements on this spot proves that the history of Pevensey goes back even to prehistoric days. Here the Romans erected, nearly 2,000 years ago, their city, said by the majority of antiquarians to be Anderida where after the Roman retirement the Britons sought refuge from the invading Saxons. Followed, however, by the conquering Teutons, the British dominion came to an end. It is, however, possible that Anderida was situated at Newenden. Yet again the invader, this time Norman, descended upon Pevensey, and 1066 saw the landing of William the Conqueror in the Bay of Pevensey.

The Normans erected their own castle within the Roman walls, and after many changes of allegiance and ownership, it came into the possession of the Duke of Devonshire, by whom it is now maintained and generously opened to the public.

Pevensey and Westham. Twin villages adjoining the Castle. Pevensey Church and Town Hall are of considerable interest, as is also the church and the village of Westham, close to Pevensey Station. Pevensey Bay is a rising watering place of the "Bungalow" type on the coast, half-mile to the south-east.

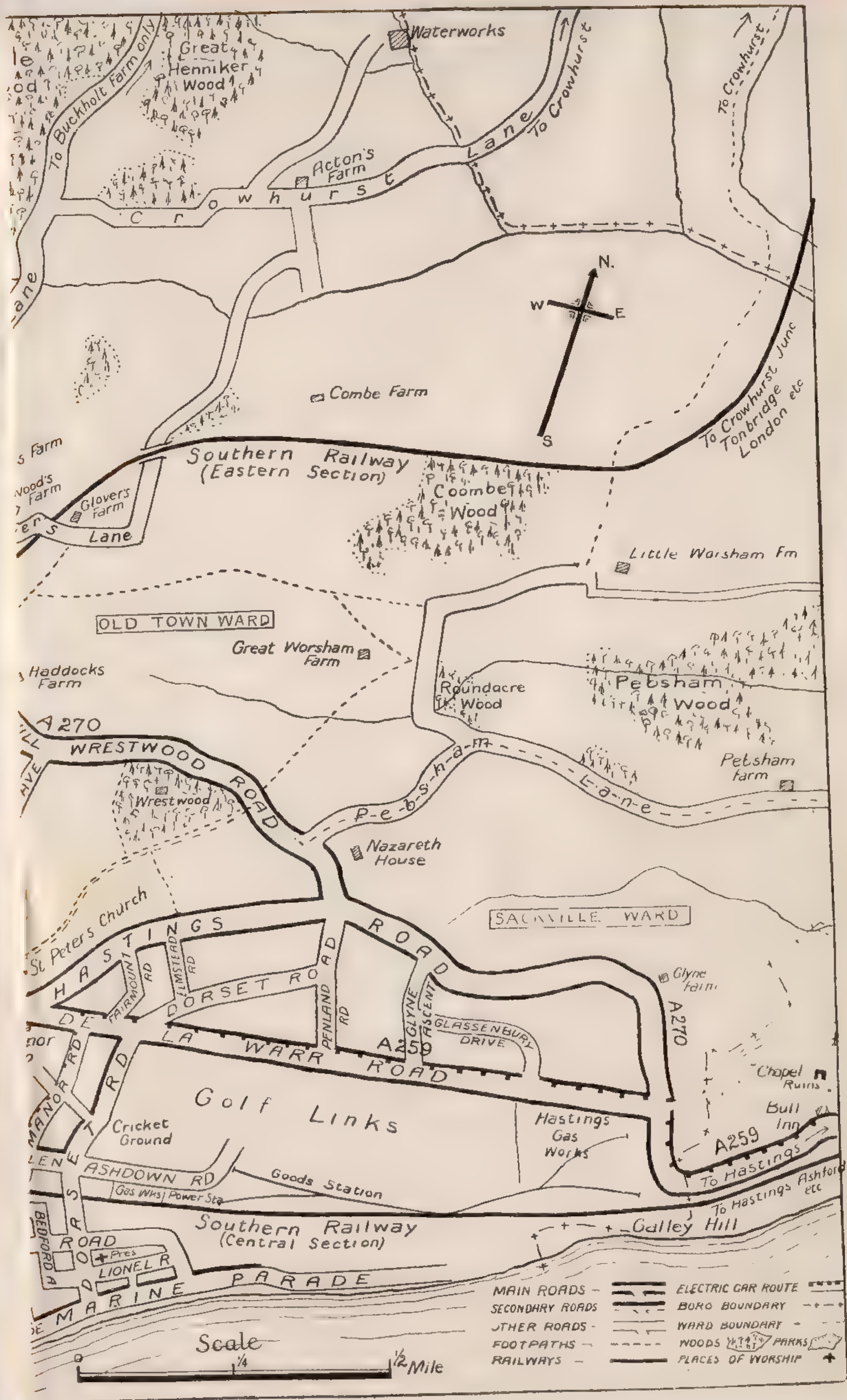
Pevensey Sluice, now popularly known as **Norman's Bay**, is situated about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles along the coast west of Cooden. Here is a "halt" on the Southern Railway. The hamlet marks the westernmost limit of the Borough of Bexhill. Norman's Bay, which is a resort of anglers, is the successor of the ancient town of Northeye. The river Ashbourne, which formerly emptied itself at Pevensey Haven, now enters the sea at Norman's Bay under the name of Waller's Haven.

* **Rye.** An ancient town and Cinque Port eleven miles east of Hastings, with which it is connected by the Southern Railway and motor 'bus services. The town is one of the most interesting in the whole of England and must on no account be missed by the tourist. Practically every inch of the town is of architectural and historical interest, and visitors are referred to the Holiday Handbook to Rye and Winchelsea in this series for full details and plans.

Sedlescombe. One of the prettiest villages in the South of England, is within 6 miles of Hastings and may be reached with ease from Battle station. The village possesses an Art Gallery, a memorial to the late H. B. Brabazon, and containing a number of his works. Amongst other items of interest in the village are the Forge, on the walls of which may be seen some specimens of old firebricks, an old cottage dated 1590, the village green with its quaint pump, the Old Manor House dating from 1611 (now divided into five tenements) and the Church.

Sidley is a northern suburb of Bexhill, and has a station on the Southern Railway. It possesses nothing of special interest.

Wartling, a small village south of Hurstmonceux, affords excellent views of the Pevensey marshes, and possesses an interesting though restored Church. A stone on the outside of the Church bears what is known locally as the "Pelham Buckle," the mark of the Pelham family who were instrumental in the construction of many Sussex Churches.







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|-------------------|-------|----------------------|-------|
| MAIN ROADS - | ===== | ELECTRIC GMR ROUTE - | ----- |
| SECONDARY ROADS - | ===== | BORO BOUNDARY - | ----- |
| OTHER ROADS - | ===== | WARD BOUNDARY - | ----- |
| FOOTPATHS - | ----- | WOODS (Hatched) | ===== |
| RAILWAYS - | ----- | PARKS (Dotted) | ===== |
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